

CLAIMS

1. A fluid transfer material for use in a system for transferring fluid, the fluid transfer material comprising:

at least one cured thermoset material; and

at least one thermoplastic material melded thereto.
2. A fluid transfer material according to claim 1, further comprising at least one fibrous material.
3. A fluid transfer material according to either claim 1 or 2, wherein at least one said thermoset material is chopped, shredded or fragmented.
4. A fluid transfer material according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one said thermoset material comprises rubber.
5. A fluid transfer material according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one thermoset material is recycled from motor vehicles.
6. A fluid transfer material according to any one of claims 2 to 5, wherein at least one said fibrous material comprises straw.
7. A fluid transfer material according to any one of claims 2 to 6, wherein at least one said fibrous material comprises wood.

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8. A fluid transfer material according to any one of claims 2 to 7, wherein at least one said fibrous material is inorganic.
9. A fluid transfer material according to any of one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one said thermoplastic material is recycled.
10. A fluid transfer material according to any of the preceding claims, wherein at least one said thermoplastic material is chopped or shredded.
11. A fluid transfer material according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said material is formed by a moulding process.
12. A fluid transfer material according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the thermoset and/or fibrous and thermoplastic materials mixed together, preheated and placed in a mould and are melded together.
13. A fluid transfer material according to claim 12, wherein the materials are heated by hot air.
14. A fluid transfer material according to any of claims 1 to 10, wherein said material is formed by an extrusion process.
15. A fluid transfer material according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said material is at least partially surrounded by netting.
16. A fluid transfer material according to claim 15, wherein said netting comprises a fine mesh net.

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17. A fluid transfer material according to any of the preceding claims further comprising mica.
18. A fluid transfer material according to any of the preceding claims further comprising vermiculite.
19. A fluid transfer material for use in a fluid transfer system, the fluid transfer material substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
20. A fluid transfer system comprising:
- a conduit for carrying fluid; and
- a fluid transfer material according to any of the preceding claims, the fluid transfer material cooperating with said conduit for transferring fluid thereto and/or therefrom.
21. A fluid transfer system according to claim 20 wherein said conduit is a gutter arranged in use below an elongate length of said fluid transfer material.
22. A fluid transfer system according to claim 20 wherein said conduit is an elongate pipe having means for enabling passage of fluid between the interior and exterior thereof and said pipe being at least partially surrounded by an elongate length of said fluid transfer material.
23. A fluid transfer system according to claim 22 wherein said means for enabling the passage of fluid between the interior and the exterior of the pipe comprises one or more apertures in the pipe.

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24. A fluid transfer system according to claim 22 wherein said means for enabling the passage of fluid between the interior and the exterior of the pipe comprises at least one slot arranged in the upper part of said pipe in use.
25. A fluid transfer system according to claim 22 wherein said pipe is porous.
26. A fluid transfer system according to any one of claims 20 to 25 wherein said system is used for drainage.
27. A fluid transfer system according to any one of claims 20 to 25 wherein said system is used for irrigation.
28. A fluid transfer system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
29. A method of making a fluid transfer material comprising the steps of:-
- mixing together at least one thermoset material and/or at least one fibrous material and at least one thermoplastic material to form a mixture;
- placing said mixture in a mould; and
- heating said mixture so as to cause the melding of said at least one thermoplastic material to the other materials.
30. A method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of preheating said mixture before it is placed in said mould.

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31. A method according to claim 29 or 30 wherein said mixture is heated by the introduction of a heated gas into the mixture.
32. A fluid transfer material for use in a system for transferring fluid, the fluid transfer material comprising at least one fibrous material mixed with and melded to at least one thermoplastic material.

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